



Western Indian Wars 1853-1867



Walker (Walkara) War

On July 17, 1853, several Utes were trading at James Ivie's home near Springville when Ivie intervened in a dispute between a Ute man and his wife over her failure to strike a good bargain. Ivie tried to prevent the couple and a companion from carrying their dispute into his cabin. In the ensuing melee, Ivie killed one of the men, a relative of Walkara's named Shower-Ocats. Trying to work out an agreement, Brigham Young and Walkara met at Chicken Creek in Juab County on May 11, 1854. After Young arrived at Walkara's camp, the proud chief refused to come out of his tent to greet Young, insisting that the governor come to him instead. Recognizing a tense and potentially explosive situation, Young and George A. Smith walked to Walkara's tent. After they arrived, they found one of his daughters seriously ill. Touched by her suffering, they gave her a healing blessing.

Tintic War

In February 1856, the Tintic War, a series of skirmishes named after a Ute subchief, inflamed the people in the Tintic and Cedar Valleys, largely because Indians, who were starving in the drought, began taking cattle from the settlers. The war resulted in a number of clashes and deaths.

Utah War (Echo or Mormon War)

Utah, which was settled by the Mormons (Latter-day Saints) in the mid-1840s, was declared a US territory in 1850, and Brigham Young was appointed governor. Federal officials complained of Young's dictatorial ways and the power of the church, while others were shocked at the Mormons' practice of polygamy. Matters worsened, and in 1857 the US president sent Colonel Albert S. Johnston and a force of 2,500 troops to Utah to install a new non-Mormon governor to enforce federal authority. The Danites, a Mormon militia, slowed Johnston's progress across the plains by stampeding horses, destroying wagon trains, and burning grass, while Young called settlers from throughout the territory to come to Salt Lake City to defend the capital. Before a serious confrontation took place, a federal mediator was able to arrange a compromise. The new governor was recognized and allowed to enter Salt Lake City, while the troops camped outside and soon returned East. Although the "rebels" were pardoned by the president, friction between the Mormons and the government continued for another four decades. It was only after the Mormon Church abolished polygamy that Utah was admitted into the Union in 1896.

Black Hawk War

The Black Hawk Indian War was the longest and most destructive conflict between pioneer immigrants and Native Americans in Utah History. The traditional date of the war's commencement is 9 April 1865 but tensions had been mounting for years. On that date bad feelings were transformed into violence when a handful of Utes and Mormon frontiersmen met in Manti, Sanpete County, to settle a dispute over some cattle killed and consumed by starving Indians. An irritated Mormon lost his temper and violently jerked a young chieftain from his horse. The insulted Indian delegation, which included a young Ute named Black Hawk, abruptly left, promising retaliation. The threats were not idle - for over the course of the next few days Black Hawk and other Utes killed five Mormons and escaped to the mountains with hundreds of stolen cattle. In the fall of 1867 Black Hawk made peace with the Mormons. Without his leadership the Indian forces, fragmented even further. The war's intensity decreased and a treaty of peace was signed in 1868. Intermittent raiding and killing, however, continued until 1872 when 200 federal troops were finally ordered to step in. The war ended almost without incident. The wars ended only after the federal government removed the Utes to the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in the Uinta Basin during the late 1860s and early 1870s.

In the quiet solemnity of the Heber City cemetery stands a simple sandstone marker bearing the initials T. T. A huge pine tree towers over the grave, shadowing the burial place of Tom Tabby, son of Tabby-To-Kwanah, a chief of the Ute Indians who lived at the reservation in the Uinta Basin in 1867. Chief Tabby, as the white settlers called him, wanted his son buried in the way of the Mormons; therefore Tom Tabby's remains were laid to rest among the graves of the Murdock family rather than on the reservation land.

not
proved

It was during the Black Hawk War of the mid-1860's that Tom Tabby died accidentally while hunting. Chief Tabby, whose people had once freely roamed the Provo River Valley in which Heber City is located, carried his dead son in his arms to the town hoping that the boy could be buried there. Joseph Stacy Murdock consented to conduct a Christian burial service. According to a plaque at the cemetery, following the funeral Tabby said, "My son has been buried in the white man's custom, now he will be honored in the Indian fashion." The Indians laid cedar logs on the grave, led the boy's favorite pony to the logs where it was killed, then ignited the funeral pyre. When the blaze had died to embers, the saddened chief mounted his horse and with his companions rode east to the reservation. Chief Tabby-to-Kwanah, the seeker of peace between the Native Americans and the settlers, had demonstrated his commitment to seek the best of both worlds rather than fight.

chief

When the white settlers first arrived in Utah, Tabby was a young man but already a leader of one of the many bands of Utes in central and eastern Utah. Despite early conflicts in Utah Valley and more serious outbreaks in the 1850s led by Chiefs Wakara (Walker) and Tintic, the settlers and the Native Americans under Chiefs Sowiette and Tabby lived in relative peace. Tabby-To-Kwanah, whose name means Child of the Sun, and his people interacted peaceably with the whites for several years. However, by the early 1860s white-Indian conflicts intensified and the federal government decided that the Native Americans should be placed on reservations for mutual safety and so the settlers could occupy more land. The treaty of 1865 relegated the Uintah Utes to the Uinta Basin. If the Indians would move there they would receive payment for their land—including the Indian farms at Spanish Fork and Sanpete they were giving up—and services and supplies from the government. Sixteen chiefs signed the treaty, but Congress did not ratify it. The treaty goods and money were never delivered, and the Indians continued to roam in search of food. For Chief Tabby and his people, who traditionally located seasonally in the Uinta Mountains and Basin, the transition was not as difficult as for some bands, but all were distressed when the government did not deliver their "presents" and they faced constant hunger. Many Indians, angry about being forced off their native lands, rebelled under Chief Black Hawk. The more peaceful ones went with Tabby to the reservation and avoided bloodshed, although greatly disappointed in the word of the white man.

During 1865-68 followers of Black Hawk terrorized the settlers, stealing livestock and occasionally killing isolated whites. Because there had been little problem with Tabby's Utes, one of the first acts of the Wasatch Militia was to make peace. According to Joseph S. McDonald, a member of the militia, Captain Wall and 24 men from Heber City took three wagon loads of supplies, plus 100 head of cattle as a gift from Brigham Young, to the reservation as a peace offering. The goods were taken to the Indian Agency on the west fork of the Duchesne River, where the Indians were gathered. Many males had gone to fight with Black Hawk, but tensions remained high. Even Tabby was angry, feeling betrayed by the white man, and he warned of possible trouble. The militia prepared defenses at the agency and waited three days for an attack. About 275 warriors surrounded the area. Tabby was inside the agent's cabin when Captain Wall decided that it was time to talk. For three hours Tabby and Wall negotiated and then met again the next day. At last Tabby agreed to peace and accepted the cattle and supplies. The warriors, still hot for battle, were quieted by Tabby. Some young men were difficult to restrain, though, and incidents of raiding livestock continued. Heber City remained on guard, but for the most part Tabby's followers avoided warfare.

Wasatch County Veterans List

WALKER (WALKARA), WAR 17 July 1853 to 12 August 1854

TINTIC WAR Late fall 1855 - 1856

ECHO WAR (or Utah, or Mormon War) Fall of 1857 to July 1861

BLACK HAWK WAR 10 of April 1865 to 20 August 1867

Abegglen, Christian
Abegglen, Conrad
Abegglen, Ulrich
Abplanalp, Peter
Acomb, John
Adam, James
Adams, David
Adams, William
Aird, William
All, Joseph
Allen, Charles
Allred, James
Allred, Reuben
Andrews, John
Averett, William
Backstrom, Peter
Bagley, William
Baird, Robert
Barney, David
Bates, Ezekiel
Batson, Joseph
Baum, Isaac
Baum, Jacob
Bethers, William S.
Bigelow, Daniel
Bigelow, Hiram
Blood, Moroni
Bond, Jesse
Bond, Stephen A.
Bonner, George
Boren, Jasper
Broadhead, Robert
Bronson, Edward
Brown, Anthony
Brown, George
Buhler, Jacob
Buhler, William R.

Bunnell, George
Burgener, Jacob
Campbell, Thomas
Carlile, George
Carlile, James
Carroll, Charles N.
Carroll, Patrick
Carroll, Willard
Carter, Sidney
Chatwin, Henry
Chatwin, William
Clegg, Jonathan
Clegg, William
Clift, George W.
Clyde, George
Cole, James
Cole, William
Coleman, Henry
Coleman, William
Condor, Edward
Coon, Lybeous L. Jr.
Cristmon, John
Crook, John (Bat. Adjutant)
Cummings, Isaac
Cummings, John
Cummings, John J.
Cummings, William
Cunningham, Peter
Cunningham, Robert
Dabbling, George
Davidson, William
Davis, Enoch
Davis, James
Davis, John
Davis, Stanley
Daybell, George
Duel, Jacob

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Duke, James
Duke, John
Duke, Jonathan M.
Duke, Robert S.
Epperson, Sidney Hyrum (Major)
Ertzinger, Jacob
Fausett, John
Fisher, David
Fisher, James W.
Fisher, Thomas R.
Foreman, William R.
Fortie, Alexander
Fraughton, Frank
Fraughton, George
Gallagher, John
Gallagher, William
Garr, Peter
Gerber, John L.
Gerber, Louis
Gibson, William
Giles, Fredrick
Giles, George Jr.
Giles, George T.
Giles, Thomas
Giles, Thomas H.
Giles, William G.
Giles, William M.
Given, James
Grant, John
Greer, Dixon H.
Griffiths, John
Gurney, Charles
Gurr, Edward
Gurr, James
Gurr, James Sr.
Gurr, Ruben
Hamilton, Andrew
Hamilton, David F.
Hamilton, Henry

Hamilton, James B.
Hamilton, John Jr.(Major)
Hanks, Ephraim Knowlton
Hanks, O. Alvarus
Harris, Jacob
Hartle, William
Harvey, John
Harvey, John Jr.
Harvey, Murray
Haws, William
Henry, Calvin
Hicken, Addison
Hicken, Orson
Hicken, Thomas
Higgenbothom, Simon S.
Holden, John
Horrocks, Roger
Hosser, Hebert
Howarth, John
Huber, John
Hudson, Thomas
Huffaker, David Simpson
Hundley, Thomas
Hyde, Alonzo
Jackson, James
Jacobs, Ira N.
Jacobs, Joseph
Jacobs, Lucien H.
Jeffs, Mark
Johnson, William
Jones, Elisha
Jones, Elisha Sr.
Jones, Richard
Jordan, John
Jordan, John P.
Kirby, Francis Jr.
Kirby, Francis II
Kirk, Arthur
Lee, John

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Lindsay, James S.
Lindsay, Robert
Lindsay, William
Love, Charles Henry
Lowe, James
Luke, Henry
Manning, Freeman
Mayoh, Noah
McCarrell, Jesse Hughes
McCarrell, Joseph
McDonald, John
McDonald, Joseph Smith
McDonald, William
McFee, Samuel
McGhie, William
McKnight, Robert Sr.
McMillan, Daniel
McMillan, William
McMullin, Albert
McMullin, Henry
McMurray, George
McNaughtan, James
McOlney, Moroni
Mecham, John
Mecham, Louis
Mecham, Moroni
Meeks, Harvey Henry
Miller, J.R.
Morton, Allan
Moser, John
Moulton, John Heber
Moulton, Joseph
Moulton, Thomas
Moulton, William
Muir, George
Muir, John
Murdoch, John M.
Murdock, Nymphus Coridon
Naegeli, Martin

Nash, James
Nelson, Henry
Nichol, Thomas
Noakes, George
Norris, Benjamin Ambler
Nuttall, William
Oaks, Hyrum
Oaks, William
Ohlwiler, Henry
O'Neil, James
O'Neil, John
Parker, Joseph
Payne, Edward
Potree, Lewis
Price, James
Provost, David
Provost, James
Rasband, Thomas
Reid, James
Reynolds, William P.
Richardson, William
Richman, Emanuel
Ritchie, John
Ritter, Thompson
Robertson, John
Robey, Jeremiah Jr.
Rooker, Samuel
Ross, Andrew
Ross, John
Ryan, William M. Jr.
Ryan, William Sr.
Scroggie, Archibald
Sessions, Daniel A.
Sessions, Richard
Sessions, Saulmon
Sessions, Thomas B.
Shanks, James
Shelton, Alfred
Shelton, Hyrum

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Sherlock, Richard	Wilson, Frank
Smith, Benjamin Mark	Wilson, George A.
Smith, Joseph Ephraim	Wilson, William W.
Smith, Phillip	Winelob, Louis
Smith, Richard	Witt, John Wesley (Major)
Smith, Thomas	Wood, David
Stephenson, David	Wootton, Attewall
Stocks, Edward	
Sulser, Casper	
Sulser, John	
Sutherland, John	
Taylor, James	
Taylor, Joseph W.	
Thomas, Charles C.	
Thomas, Elijah	
Thomas, Joseph	
Thomas, William	
Thompson, Adam	
Thompson, George	
Thompson, Samuel	
Thompson, William	
Thornton, Thomas	
Timothy, John G.	
Todd, Thomas	
Turner, John	
VanWagoner, David (Bat. Adjutant)	
VanWagoner, Ephraim	
VanWagoner, John	
Wall, Isaac O.	
Wall, William Madison	
Walton, Darwin	
Ward, Alfred	
Wardle, Edwin	
Wardle, George	
Watson, James	
Watson, William Jr.	
Weed, Joshua	
White, Cornelius	
Wilcken, Charles H. (Adjutant)	